

37

MONTANA  
STATE LIBRARY EXTENSION COMMISSION  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
MISSOULA, MONTANA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE LIBRARY EXTENSION  
COMMISSION - 1946

The State Library Extension Commission was created by an act of the Legislature in 1929 but not until 1945 when the law was amended, was money appropriated to finance its work. In compliance with the law, in May 1945, Governor Ford made the following appointments to the Commission: Mrs. Corinne B. Ackley, Lewistown, 1 year term; Mrs. R.C. Dillavou, Billings, 2 year term; Mrs. W.T. Perham, Glendive, 3 year term. The law designates the librarian of The Montana State University, Miss Kathleen Campbell, as chairman of the Commission and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Miss Elizabeth Ireland, ex-officio member. Mrs. Ackley resigned in October and the Governor appointed Miss Margaret Fulmer, Great Falls, to complete her term. In May, 1946, Miss Fulmer's appointment was renewed for a three year term.

With the beginning of the 1945 - 1947 biennium in July 1945, Montana State University offered a room in the library building for use as a Commission headquarters. The Commission had difficulty in securing a librarian to assume the duties of Secretary which delayed starting the work until Feb. 15, 1946 when Ellen Torgrimson arrived in Missoula to act as Secretary. Mrs. Vera M. Salinas was hired as Library Assistant. She resigned in August and Mrs. Ruth P. Jahnke took her place. Part time clerical assistance has been employed.

Following is a brief resume of activities of the State Library Extension Commission during the first ten months of its operation.

A library of 4,460 books has been assembled at headquarters at the Montana State University Library. A few of these were gifts; the remainder were ordered from publishers and jobbers. All these books have been cataloged and prepared for circulation. Circulation of books in quantity did not begin until September, but circulation figures had reached 3,879 by December 31st. Field visits to fifty libraries in the state have been made. Help has been given to librarians in filing, cataloging, book selection, budget problems, building and equipment, and personnel problems. In the interest of county and public library organization, talks have been given at Bozeman, Polson, Sula, Scobey, Sidney, Jordan, Glendive, Deer Lodge, Custer, Bridger, Belfry, and Hamilton.

Only seven, out of the fifty-six counties in Montana, have not been served in some way by the Commission, either through loans of books to schools, libraries and individuals, through field visits by the Secretary, or through help and advice given by mail.

The Commission has cooperated with other educational programs in the state by supplying books for the Montana Study; Book Study groups at Corvallis, Ronan and Alberton; the State University Division of Extension and Public Service; and the State Correspondence School. The Secretary attended the Rural Education Conference at Helena, the Montana State Library Association at Helena, the American Library Association conference at Buffalo, the Labor Institute at Missoula, the Pacific Northwest Library Association Conference at Vancouver, B.C., the Montana Education Association meetings at Helena and Kalispell, and a Home Demonstration Council meeting at Chinook.

Articles were supplied to the Montana Education Association journal for the March and September issues and one for the November 15th issue of the Montana Farmer.

The budget expenditures through December 31, 1946 have been as follows:

ITEM	AMOUNT EXPENDED	BALANCE
Salaries	\$3,515.00	\$4,285.00
Books	6,911.34	1,388.66
Supplies	750.88	749.12
Equipment	289.00	511.00
Travel	998.80	601.20

The Commission has made a commendable record during the first ten months of its operation, as Montana is a large state, sparsely settled, and difficult to cover. Borrowers have written grateful letters expressing their pleasure in the new service now available to them.

The Commission has submitted a budget request for \$28,386.08 for the 1947-1949 biennium, a modest increase of only \$8,386.08 over the 1945-1947 budget of \$20,000. With these additional funds the Commission can increase its usefulness and enlarge its services in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Torgrimson, Secretary.

ET:blw

BIENNIAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, Jan. 1, 1948

The State Library Extension Commission was created by act of the 1929 Legislative Assembly, but not until the law was amended in 1945 was money appropriated to finance its work. The first biennial budget totalled \$20,000, allocated as follows:

Salary of Secretary	\$4,800.00
Salary of Assistant	3,000.00
Purchase of books, periodicals & binding	8,300.00
Supplies	1,500.00
Equipment	800.00
Travel	1,600.00

In compliance with the law, Governor Ford made the following appointments to the Commission in May 1945: Mrs. Corinne B. Ackley, librarian, Carnegie Public Library, Lewistown, 1 year term; Mrs. R. C. Dillavou, Billings, 2 year term; Mrs. W. T. Perham, Glendive, 3 year term. Mrs. Ackley left the state and resigned in October 1945. Governor Ford appointed Margaret Fulmer, librarian, Great Falls Public Library, to complete the term and reappointed her in May 1946. Mrs. Dillavou was reappointed in May 1947. The appointments are now made for three years. The law designates as chairman of the Commission the librarian of Montana State University and as ex-officio member the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. These positions are currently held by Kathleen Campbell and Elizabeth Ireland, respectively. The Commission members serve without pay but are reimbursed by the state for traveling expenses.

The Commission was scheduled to begin operating on July 1, 1945, but experienced difficulty in securing a librarian to assume the duties of Secretary. In January 1946 Ellen Torgrimson accepted the post and arrived in Missoula to begin work on February 15th. Mrs. Vera M. Salinas was hired as Library Assistant. She resigned in August and Mrs. Ruth P. Jahnke took over her duties. Additional part-time clerical help has been employed.

Montana State University offered a large room on first floor of the Library building to the Commission for use as headquarters, and the Commission started its operations here. In September 1946, however, because of increased enrollment the University decided that this space was needed for library purposes. It was then necessary for the Commission to move to a smaller room on third floor, a crowded and less desirable location because it is not readily accessible to the public.

Montana is a large and sparsely settled state. Although the first libraries were established as early as 1886, during territorial days, 35% of the population has no local library service whatsoever, and an even larger percentage has very inadequate service. For the most part school libraries are pathetically small and badly organized. It is these needs that the State Library Extension Commission was designed to fill.

Toward that end, a book collection of 6,918 volumes has been assembled at headquarters and processed for circulation. Circulation of books in quantity could not begin until September 1946, but circulation figures reached 32,321 by December 31, 1947. Only one out of fifty-six counties in Montana has not been served in some way by the Commission, either through loans of books to schools, libraries and individuals, through field visits by the Secretary, or through help and advice given by mail. Seventy-nine libraries in the state have been visited, twenty-four of them more than once; 172 days have been spent in travel about the state. Five new county libraries have been organized with the help and direction of the secretary.

The Commission has cooperated with other educational programs in the state by supplying books for the Montana Study, the State University Division of Extension and Public Service, and the State Correspondence School. The Secretary has attended conferences of the Montana State Library Association, Montana Education Association, American Library Association, Pacific Northwest Library Association, County Commissioners Association and Rural Education Conference. She has visited the State Commissions of Minnesota, Washington, North Dakota and Michigan to observe procedures followed in those states.

The State Library Extension Commission has issued two publications: a DIRECTORY OF MONTANA LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS and a compilation of LIBRARY LAWS OF MONTANA. The editing of a quarterly bulletin entitled MONTANA LIBRARIES has been undertaken, the first issue being dated October 1947. This replaces a bimonthly Bulletin formerly published by the Montana State Library Association.

The State Library Extension Commission has held three meetings. The first was held at Helena on May 7, 1946 when questions of policy relating to service, publicity, vacations and sick leave were discussed. The second was held at Billings on September 18, 1946 for the purpose of framing a budget covering the second biennium for consideration of the 1947 Legislative Assembly. A third meeting was held at Missoula on September 19, 1947, when the Commission members had their first opportunity to see the headquarters office. Subjects brought up for discussion were (1) means of obtaining permanent quarters in the Capitol Building at Helena; (2) the framing of by-laws; (3) holding of three quarterly meetings (omitting the summer meeting), two to be held at headquarters in October and February, the third in May in conjunction with the Montana State Library Association conference; (4) the need for increasing the staff; and (5) plans for regional library demonstrations.

On June 30, 1947, budget balances stood as follows:

Salaries	\$1,880.75
Purchase of books, periodicals & binding	.38
Supplies	000.00
Equipment	48.60
Travel	26.07

The large balance in the salary fund was due to the fact that the staff did not begin work until Feb. 1946.

Toward that end, a book collection of 6,918 volumes has been assembled at headquarters and processed for circulation. Circulation of books in quantity could not begin until September 1946, but circulation figures reached 32,321 by December 31, 1947. Only one out of fifty-six counties in Montana has not been served in some way by the Commission, either through loans of books to schools, libraries and individuals, through field visits by the Secretary, or through help and advice given by mail. Seventy-nine libraries in the state have been visited, twenty-four of them more than once; 172 days have been spent in travel about the state. Five new county libraries have been organized with the help and direction of the secretary.

The Commission has cooperated with other educational programs in the state by supplying books for the Montana Study, the State University Division of Extension and Public Service, and the State Correspondence School. The Secretary has attended conferences of the Montana State Library Association, Montana Education Association, American Library Association, Pacific Northwest Library Association, County Commissioners Association and Rural Education Conference. She has visited the State Commissions of Minnesota, Washington, North Dakota and Michigan to observe procedures followed in those states.

The State Library Extension Commission has issued two publications: a DIRECTORY OF MONTANA LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS and a compilation of LIBRARY LAWS OF MONTANA. The editing of a quarterly bulletin entitled MONTANA LIBRARIES has been undertaken, the first issue being dated October 1947. This replaces a bimonthly Bulletin formerly published by the Montana State Library Association.

The State Library Extension Commission has held three meetings. The first was held at Helena on May 7, 1946 when questions of policy relating to service, publicity, vacations and sick leave were discussed. The second was held at Billings on September 18, 1946 for the purpose of framing a budget covering the second biennium for consideration of the 1947 Legislative Assembly. A third meeting was held at Missoula on September 19, 1947, when the Commission members had their first opportunity to see the headquarters office. Subjects brought up for discussion were (1) means of obtaining permanent quarters in the Capitol Building at Helena; (2) the framing of by-laws; (3) holding of three quarterly meetings (omitting the summer meeting), two to be held at headquarters in October and February, the third in May in conjunction with the Montana State Library Association conference; (4) the need for increasing the staff; and (5) plans for regional library demonstrations.

On June 30, 1947, budget balances stood as follows:

Salaries	\$1,880.75
Purchase of books, periodicals & binding	.38
Supplies	000.00
Equipment	48.60
Travel	26.07

The large balance in the salary fund was due to the fact that the staff did not begin work until Feb. 1946.

The budget for the 1947-1949 biennium as approved by the 1947 Legislative Assembly, totals \$25,526.08. Montana has a population of 559,456 according to the 1940 census. This means that the Commission with its traveling library and advisory and supervisory services is available to the people of Montana at a cost of about two cents per person per year. That the service is appreciated is demonstrated by the many letters from grateful readers, students and teachers in all sections of the state.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ellen Torgrimson*

Ellen Torgrimson, Secretary

ET:rpj